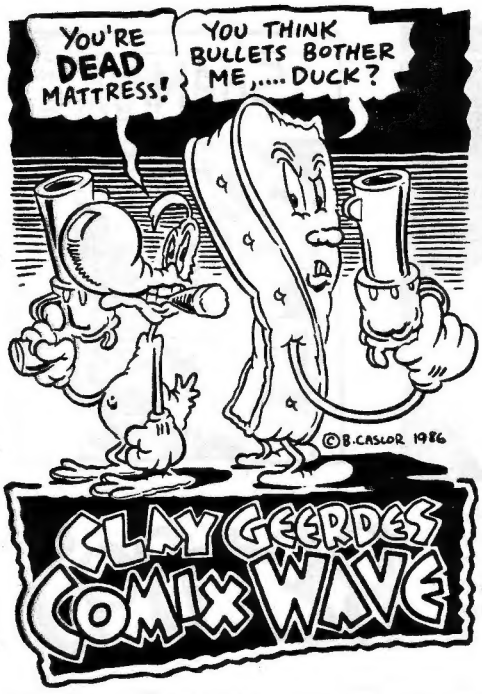
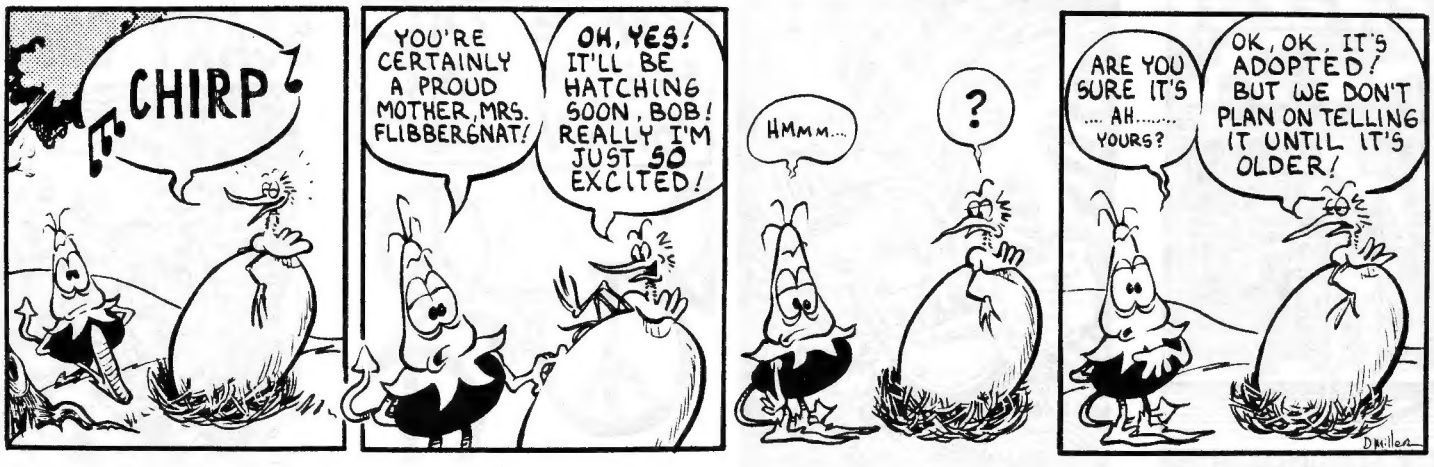
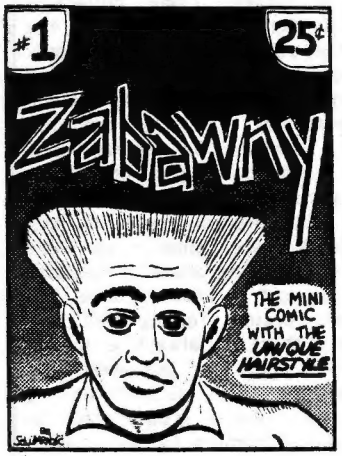


COMIX WAVE 44. © CLAY GEERDES, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. November, 1986. All Rights Reserved. Logo: Brad Caslor, Canadian animator whose latest mini-comix are DUCK & MATTRESS 3 and BETSY 3 ($1.22pp for both from CW). The Bob Goblin strip is by David Miller. * Congratulations to Jack Katz, who, in May of 1986, inked the final line of his epic THE FIRST KINGDOM, the longest comic art project in the history of the medium. 24 books, all of them 32 pages with color covers, completed over a ten year span. The book wound up being published by Bud Plant, but I was working at the old Berkeley Comic Art Shop on Telegraph in Berkeley when that project was first in the wind and it was Bob Beerbohm who championed it. THE FIRST KINGDOM was introduced to comic fandom in COMIX WORLD 16, during a time when only Katz was talking about "graphic novels," now the term is used on a lot of things which are little more than extended superhero stories. In both art and story, Katz transcended Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon, and the other precedents to his work. The complexity of THE FIRST KINGDOM, it s convoluted plot, its multitude of characters, mark it as serious graphic literature and I am sure it will be studied in the years to come, not by those who have a passing interest in comics, but by those with a serious curiosity about the major intellectual currents of the 1970s and 80s. Dean Cornwall, Harvey Dunn, and Jesse Leyendecker would have been proud of you, Jack.* CON GAMES: Imitation is always destined for obscurity, but the money-minded artist-entrepreneur always seems to go for a possible short-term profit over any kind of permanence or historical significance. Sparked by RONIN, the Eastman/Laird TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES is good satire with artwork which has improved with each issue. TURTLES financial success has begun to stimulate by-products like Erick Wujcik's TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES ADVENTURES GAME, and a forthcoming graphic album by First Comics; at the same time the popular TURTLES has triggered a mass of absurd imitations ranging from radioactive hamsters to geriatric gerbils, all of which may have interesting artwork and provocative stories, yet be doomed to obscurity, because they are not stimulated by a fresh creative impulse, rather by an attempt to cash in on someone else's wit. The Dealers' Room at the San Diego Con was replete with imitation turtles and robotech bots and the usual hypola for things like that horrible HOWARD THE DUCK film (an idea whose time came and went a long time ago). I don't think it ever works well to mix animals or birds and humans. That's why Kelly dumped Bumbazine and made Pogo into a star.* Reminds me that Clarence Nash was doing Herman the Duck on the old Burns and Allen radio show when Disney's people signed him up to do the voice of Donald Duck.* Dealer greed was high at the Con. I saw comics marked "above guide" for no reason other than the dealer's own selfish attitude toward the world in general. Comic collecting is being narrowed down to a handful of rich collectors, while the small buyer is being squeezed out of the picture. This is not only true of the Golden and Silver age comics, but of more contemporary comics as well. USAGI 1 was selling for $5. This is a new comic. No second issue has come out yet. I never saw this comic displayed at any of the Berkeley stores and I like Sakai's little samurai bunny so I was looking for it. I consider this fraud on the part of various dealers. I know that the artist isn't getting any extra money for the work on the comic other than the few personal copies he can sell at a convention, which means the dealers are skimming an extra $2.25 per book from readers who can't do anything about it because there are no price controls on comic books.* I always leave San Diego after one of these weekend comic orgies, feeling like I've been ground up in the machinery of art. There is always a woman vampire with a plastic smile doing semi-tit shots for bug-eyed boys who would normally be hanging out at the local Jack-in-the-Box with a store-bought skateboard in one hand and a greaseburger in the other. Lines of company artists sit around signing formula comics to pay for their vacation to San Diego. Celeb guests sit and smile and never get to say anything real because they always get the


CHIRP
YOU'RE CERTAINLY A PROUD MOTHER, MRS. FLIBBERGNAT!
OH, YES! IT'LL BE HATCHING SOON, BOB! REALLY I'M JUST SO EXCITED!
HMMM....
?
ARE YOU SURE IT'S .... AH..... YOURS?
OK, OK, IT'S ADOPTED! BUT WE DON'T PLAN ON TELLING IT UNTIL IT'S OLDER!
D.Miller

same nerdish questions from the audience geeks.* That's Stan Sakai up above with MAD Groo-oo Sergio Aragones. * Hey, I actually had a pretty good time in San Diego this year. We went out to the Coronado Hotel, where they filmed SOME LIKE IT HOT back in the fifties; walked along the beach and saw a lot of mistresses and gigolos evening up their tans. Big contrast to the skid row where the con hotel is. Saw a few punks with that freeze-dried look, you know, Mohawks and slash-glasses. Sailors were giving each other that knowing look on the bus, but inside they were envious of those green and purple hair jobs. The first thing you lose in boot camp is your locks. A skinhead is a raw recruit, a guy whose dungarees still smell of preservatives, like the boy I saw eating his twinkies and drinking his Classic Coke outside the hotel. I understood him right away. He just got out of primary training. They don't let you have any ice cream or cokes for three solid weeks. Boot liberty for these guys means candy and ice cream, or geedunks, as they are called in Navy slang.* OKAY, TIME FOR THE PLUGS. Note that plugs in CW are paid for with two copies of the publication. Nothing in life is free. If you are ordering for the first time, you should send an age statement (18 or over), because some of the stuff published may be X-rated. Most of the current stuff tends not to be X, but send your statement and save time.* Jeff Gaither's ZEITGEIST 1, 2, and 3, XXX, John Jones RETROS 1, 2, and 3, R. K. Sloane's SCARY COMIX, and Parsonavich's VISION 3 are all new from CW. 50¢/.22 stamp each.* AVERAGE MAN 1 is 25¢ from Chris Kelly, 11949 Straight-A-Way Lane, Raleigh, N C 27612.* "Just because you made a mess and hung it up in an art gallery for everyone to see doesn't make you a painter."* AIRHEAD 1 and 2, 25¢ ea/.22 stamp from Ed Crawford, Rt 2, Box 275B, Sherwood, Ore 97140.*Carole Sobocinski gets into the swim of things with HER FIRST, ZABAWNY. .25/.22stamp. POB 3433, Merchandise Mart Sta., Chicago, IL 60654.* PEACE OIL FOR A RAT BRAIN COMICS and BUDDHA MOODIST PUNK ZEN DETECTIVE are each 25¢/.22 from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046.* DUNGAR 4, MYSTERIOUS VISIONS 3, and FLORIDA LIFE 1 are all 25¢/.22 ea from Ian Shires, 17914 N. Inlet Dr., Strongsville, OH 44136.* THE COSMIC ARMADILLO 1 is 50¢/.22 from James Lindbloom, 133 College Ave., Poughkeepsie, N Y 12603.* SHAMAN 42 is 70¢ pp from William Dockery, 3226 River Ave., Columbus, GA 31904.* I have a few copies of David Nadel's RUMPLE-REAGANSKIN. 50¢/.22.* A HATFUL OF HOWIE is 75¢ pp from W. Honath, 332 Atlanta Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1125.* CAL MOOTS 1 and 2 are 25¢..22 ea from John Freitas, POB 590, No, Easton, MA 02356.* MURDER 1 from Renegade.* -CLAY GEERDES



CARAH PRODUCTION COMIX
25¢
BUDDHA MOODIST PUNK ZEN DETECTIVE
AS BUDDHA BAT SUCKING THE PULP OUT OF JALAPENO PEPPERS CONTEMPLATING THE NEXT SIP OF VINTAGE ARMAGNAC THE PHONE RANG OMINOUSLY
RING RING